

HANDSOME FURS

Face Control

86%



SUB POP

Though *Face Control* was at least partly inspired by Eastern Europe, and more specifically, calculating head games played by surly Muscovites, it's less sparse and more upbeat than Handsome Furs' debut, *Plague Park*. Not to worry, the best kind of icy synth distance remains, yet this time, it's combined with a decidedly more rock and roll outlook (and yes, The Kills do come to mind at times, as in album opener "Legal Tender"). With all the sweat, lust and ideas of our highly-complicated age that went into this record, it makes sense that *Face Control* is refreshingly spirited, alive and full of surprises—from the orchestral, purring bedroom interlude, "(Passport Control)," to the pop epic "All We Want, Baby, is Everything." Alexei Perry's electronics have grown more lush and her husband/Wolf Parader and Furs singer/guitarist Dan Boeckner's vocals more intense. Together, they've embraced more experience and experimentation for captivating results. **MADELINE VIRBASIU-WALSH**

